



# ***NEWS RELEASE***

## **PRESS OFFICE**

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**Release Date:** March 9, 2000  
**Release Number:** 00-20

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### ***SBA ADMINISTRATOR NAMES GAIL MCDONALD AS NATIONAL OMBUDSMAN***

**WASHINGTON** – Aida Alvarez, Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), has named Gail A. McDonald as the Small Business and Agriculture Regulatory Enforcement Ombudsman.

As national ombudsman, McDonald will work to help small businesses be heard on federal agency regulatory enforcement practices. The post was created by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 to report to Congress annually on how federal regulatory enforcement activity impacts small business.

**“I am pleased to name Gail McDonald to this critical post,”** Administrator Alvarez said. **“Her experience in working with small business owners makes her the ideal person for this position. I am confident that she will act as a true voice for America’s small businesses and be an effective national ombudsman to safeguard their interests.”**

McDonald comes from a family of small business owners. She worked in her father’s car dealership in sales, marketing and distribution. McDonald has worked with small businesses in her community assisting day care providers to develop training programs and helping small business artisans to market their products and establish business plans.

Prior to her SBA appointment, McDonald served as a consultant to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), advising on safety and policy issues. She helped the shortline railroads prepare for Y2K. Before the FRA, McDonald held political appointments as administrator of the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, where she was the first woman to hold that post, and as chairman of the Interstate Commerce Commission, where she worked with small business.

At the ICC, she worked to eliminate burdensome reporting requirements for shortline railroads and to protect small shippers from having to pay onerous bankruptcy charges. Under McDonald’s leadership, the agency developed informational materials to assist small businesses.

McDonald was the associate director of regulatory affairs for the Gas and Research Institute of Chicago, IL before joining the Clinton Administration.

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McDonald holds both bachelor's and master's degrees in history from Texas Christian University. Currently, she serves on the board of trustees of the Accokeek Foundation and the board of directors of the American Indian Institute and Injured Workers Insurance Fund of Maryland. She is a member the fundraising committees of Refugee Voices, Washington Humane Society and Bread for the City in the Washington, D.C. area.

The national ombudsman works closely with 10 small business regulatory fairness boards throughout the country. Through the boards, which consist of small business owners, small businesses can comment on the regulatory enforcement activity of federal agencies and how it affects them.

*For more information on all of SBA's programs for small businesses, call the SBA Answer Desk at 1 800 U ASK SBA, or visit the SBA's extensive Web site at [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov).*

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